

A new species of Poaceae (=Gramineae), from Karnataka¹

M. R. ALMEIDA

Ciba-Geigy Research Centre, Goregaon East, Bombay 400 063

(With a plate)

During my plant collection trips, to various parts of India, for our Phytochemical studies, I have collected a number of taxonomically interesting plants. One of them, a new grass, is described here and is dedicated to my mother, Megdelin.

Capillipedium magdaleni sp. nov.

Species est similis *Capillipedio filiculmi* (Hook. f.) Stapf, sed differt ab eo habitu perenni et glabris nodis. Differet ab omnibus aliis speciebus *Capillipedii* longioribus aristis.

Holotypus, M. R. Almeida—2566, lectus ad Agumbe in Karnataka septentrionali mense Novembri anni 1972 et positus in BLAT, Bombay; Isotypus sub eodem numero positus in Horto Kewensi (K) in Anglia. Paratypus, M. R. Almeida—2941, lectus ad Agumbe in Karnataka die 3 Novembris anni 1973 et positus in BLAT.

Capillipedium magdaleni sp. nov.

An erect or sub-erect perennial grass, occurring on sides of a waterfall, suffrutescent, below, interlaced, copiously geniculately branched, ± 20 cm tall, sometimes proliferous. Internodes up to 3 cm long. More than half of the internode is always covered by a leaf-sheath. Nodes glabrous. Leaf-sheath ± 3 cm long, mostly adpressed to the internodes except in case of some basal sheaths which are divaricate, ending in a ciliate, bilobed, membranaceous ligule. Leaves up to 4 cm long and ± 3 cm broad, linear-lanceolate, slightly acuminate. Inflorescence in a terminal panicle, with 1-4 joints, 1-2 cm long (excluding the length of the awns). Rachis capillary, glabrous. Spikelets in pairs; one sessile and other pedicellate, dull-brown in colour. Sessile spikelets $\pm .2$ cm long, linear-lanceolate, with a prominent callus near the base, containing a pistillate flower; outer glume ± 2 mm long linear-lanceolate,

¹ Accepted March 1975.

² Contribution No. 400 from CIBA-GEIGY Research Centre.

acute, 5-nerved, slightly villous on the back, keeled along the margins; inner glume ± 1.5 mm long, linear-lanceolate, acute at the apex, 3-nerved, glabrous; outer lemma sometimes ± 1 mm long, linear-acuminate, hyaline, unnerved or sometimes represented by awn, ± 2 cm long, with a dilated base; inner lemma is represented by an awn which is ± 6 cm long, without a dilated base; palea absent; lodicules 2, small, spatulate, hyaline. Ovary ± 2 mm long, with 2 plumose stigmas which are ± 1 mm long. Pedicelled spikelets ± 3 mm long, lanceolate, without a callus, containing staminate flowers. Pedicels ± 1 mm long with a median translucent groove; outer glume ± 3 mm long, lanceolate, acute at the apex, keeled along the margins, 7-9 nerved, glabrous; inner glume ± 2.5 mm long, lanceolate, slightly acuminate, keeled and ciliate along the margins, hairy on the back on upper half; upper lemma ± 2 mm long, ovate-lanceolate, hyaline; lower lemma and paleas are absent, stamens 3; anthers ± 1.5 mm long.

Holotype: M. R. Almeida—2566, is collected from Agumbe, in Karnataka, in November, 1972 and is deposited in BLAT, Bombay. Iso-type is the duplicate of the same collection and is deposited in Kew Herbarium (K).

Paratypes: M. R. Almeida—2941 collected from same place on November 3, 1973 are deposited at BLAT.

This grass is seen at only one spot growing on the sides of a waterfall on rocky substratum. It differs from other species of *Capillipedium* in having comparatively longer awns and is very closely allied to *Capillipedium filiculme* (Hook. f.) Stapf, from which it could be distinguished by the following characters:

<i>C. filiculme</i> (Hook. f.) Stapf	<i>C. magdaleni</i>
1. Annual grass	1. Perennial grass
2. Plants 61-91 cm tall	2. Plants less than 61 cm tall
3. Nodes bearded	3. Nodes glabrous
4. Leaves 6-10 cm long	4. Leaves ± 4 cm long
5. Spikelets pale-green or white	5. Spikelets dull-brown
6. Awn 1-2 cm long	6. Awn 5-7 cm long

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to express my gratitude, for the facilities and for some useful discussions, to Prof. P. V. Bole and for Latin Diagnosis, to Rev. Fr. Conrad Mascarenhas.